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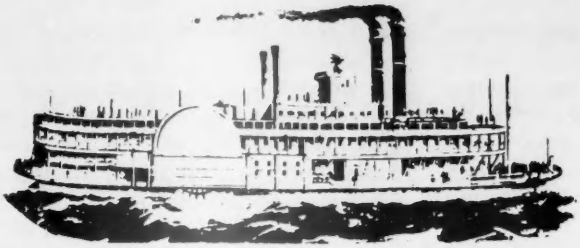

RIVER CURRENTS

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SECOND COAST GUARD DISTRICT – November 1978

Commandant Visits 2nd District

Admiral and Mrs. John B. Hayes, the new Commandant of the Coast Guard and his wife, visited the 2nd District Sep. 9 through the 22nd. The Commandant stopped in St. Louis; Memphis; Louisville, and Cincinnati.

Units that he visited on his swing through the 2nd included Marine Safety Offices in St. Louis; Cincinnati; Louisville and Memphis; Recruiting Office St. Louis; Group Lower Mississippi; Alton Lock and Dam 26; Aids to Navigation Facility Greenville; Aids To Navigation Facility Memphis, and the Coast Guard Cutters SUMAC, LANTANA; PATOKA; and KANAWHA, as well as the District Office in St. Louis.

Admiral Hayes said he plans to visit every Coast Guard District.

Commandant Speaks to 2nd District Personnel

Admiral Hayes makes a point to LTJG Joseph Hunt at an Officer's Club luncheon at Base St. Louis.

While the Commandant was in the 2nd District, he spoke to a variety of civilian and military audiences. Whether he was speaking at the Officer's Club at Base St. Louis or to enlisted men at the District Office, Admiral Hayes underscored one theme again and again: the importance of people to the Coast Guard.

"The glue that holds the Coast Guard together is its military nature and its humanitarian mission," the Commandant affirmed. "But people are what make that glue stick."

Three areas were singled out for emphasis in the Commandant's remarks: leadership, training, and support of Coast Guard personnel.

The Commandant stressed effective management as a mark of good leadership. "We need to make what we do less people-oriented," Admiral Hayes insisted.

On the subject of training, the Commandant suggested that Coast Guard aviators had techniques the rest of the Coast Guard might adapt to their training: "Perhaps we should look to the expertise our Coast Guard aviators have acquired in training people quickly and thoroughly in complex operations."

Support of Coast Guard personnel was a subject the Commandant covered in depth during his informal meetings with members of various 2nd District units. Some of the changes the Commandant forecast for the Coast Guard include:

- Better medical care: The Congress has authorized the Coast Guard to spend part of its budget to set up its own health care system independent of the Public Health Service. The Commandant claimed this would mean better care for Coast Guardsmen and their dependents. "This isn't a new program" Admiral Hayes explained. "This began under Admiral Siler. The last few years the concentration has been on the most distant or inaccessible bases and units, so you probably haven't seen the results of this program here in the Second."
- The end of the twenty year retirement program: "It's just about 100% certain that that twenty year retirement is going. My guess is that when Congress does away with the old program, it will be "grandfathered" in some way to protect those with several years in under the present system. I wouldn't want to speculate on just how the "grandfather clause" will work, but I think in the long run it will be to our advantage. In my 32-years in the Coast Guard, I have yet to see a change in the pay system that was not beneficial to us in the long run. We can't afford to go on losing our most experienced men at the height of their career."
- The end of the selective reenlistment bonus: "I have a problem with the selective reenlistment bonus. Certainly the ETs and QMs are important to the Coast Guard, but I can't really see that they are any more important than

the Boatswain's Mate. The Coast Guard can't do its job without any of them. I haven't given too much thought to the bonus system, but there will probably be a new system based on rank or excellence, rather than a return to the old selective reenlistment bonus system."

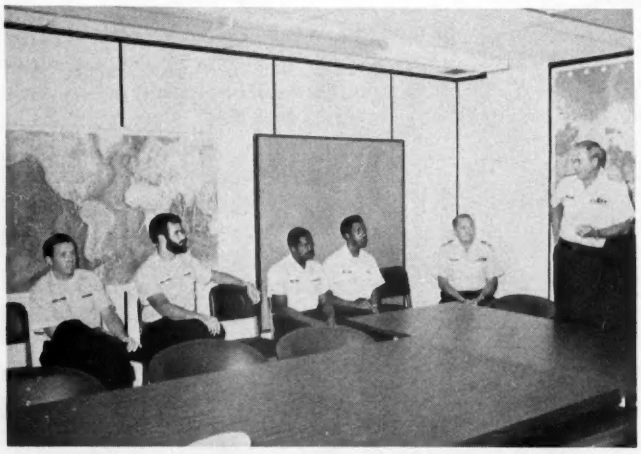
- Changes in the difference between single and married Coast Guardsmen's pay and allowances. "Sometimes the single person needs even more money than the married person."
- A new emphasis on Coast Guard dependents: "I know that my wife helps me in my work. She often gives me special insights into problems, insights I wouldn't have without her. A man will work better if he knows that his family is happy and well taken care of. We must give Coast Guard wives a bigger role in the decision making process."
- No new uniforms: In response to a query at one question and answer session, Admiral Hayes said: "Changing the uniform is just about at the bottom of any priority list. The only changes I am concerned with are things that would make the uniform warmer."

The Commandant emphasized in each of his talks that he was expressing his feelings, not laying down final, unchangeable policies. He assured his audiences that a great deal of study and thought would go into each new program or policy.

The Commandant also promised to look into the policy of granting liberty at Christmas but requiring Jewish Coast Guardsmen to take leave for their religious holidays.

A question the commandant gave a resounding "no" to was: is any stigma attached to a man who sought counseling or psychiatric help with a personal problem? "My view of these kinds of problems is that they are a sickness no different from any other, say a broken leg. If a man breaks his leg, we put him in a cast until it is healed; then he goes about his duties with no penalty for being ill. The same should be true of a psychological problem. Seeking help for a problem of this nature should not affect a man's career any more than a broken leg."

In his remarks the Commandant emphasized that we have a responsibility for our own welfare. "Write your congressman in a constructive way," he urged again and again. "The way the commissaries were saved was through the great outpouring of mail that came from military personnel. Your congressman will listen to you as his constituent. By all means, vote. We have a lower voter turn out than the civilian average, and we can't expect to continue this apathy and not find Congress less and less sympathetic to our plight. Find out the candidates' positions on the issues that affect you, and vote for your own best interest."



Admiral Hayes addresses personnel of MSO St. Louis

Elizabeth (Bogie) Hayes, wife of Coast Guard Commandant Admiral John B. Hayes, listens to Gladys Tanos at a luncheon for the Officers' Wives Club at RADM Caldwell's home. From left to right: Gladys Tanos, Wanda Bartels, Mrs. Hayes, and Suzanne Caldwell.

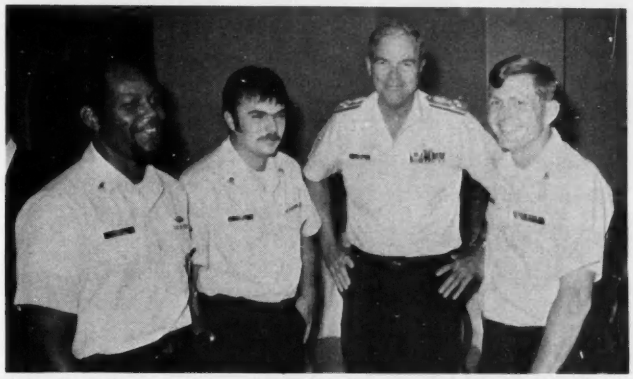
Photo by SN Dona Frank

Elizabeth (Bogie) Hayes exchanges views with wives of enlisted men. From left to right: Elenor Perry; Paula Post; Mrs. Hayes; Carol Byrne and Sandi Bandhauer.

Admiral Hayes answers questions at the Base St. Louis dining facility.

The Commandant receives an indoctrination in buoy tending on the rivers from SUMAC Captain, CWO4 G.A. Matheson; and 2nd District Commander, RADM Wayne E. Caldwell.

Coast Guard Commandant with the staff of MSO Louisville.



Admiral Hayes talks with DCC Leonard Luckey (Far left) officer in charge of Recruiting Office Columbus; MK1 Dan Clark, Cincinnati reservist; and MK1 Terry Prokes, stationkeeper for Reserve Unit Cincinnati.

Inside the Law-Your Will

by Dennis K. Morgan, CAPT, USAR, JAJC

As noted in the September issue of River Currents, we the members of the 18th and 129th Judge Advocate General's Detachment are available for legal assistance every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 at the 2nd District Legal Office in St. Louis.

One of the services we have been performing for many active duty and retired Coast Guardsmen and their dependents (at no cost) is the writing of their will. If you do not now have a will we strongly urge you to contact us in order that we may prepare one for you. No one likes to think about death, but it and taxes (according to Ben Franklin) are the only two things in life which are certain. Presumably you make provision every April 15 for your taxes. Have you done the same for your loved ones?

Without a will, your property may pass to persons other than those you feel should have it. Even if your successors are in fact your loved ones, the assets could well be divided in a manner which you might consider unfair. A guardian for them could be appointed in a manner which you might consider unfair. A guardian for them could be appointed without taking your wishes into consideration at all. Why? Because without a will, your wishes die with you.

We have raised only a few of the problems attending the death of a person who has failed to leave a proper will, and we stress the word proper. Each state has different requirements which must be strictly adhered to if one's last request is to be anything more than a scrap of paper. A will is no "do-it-yourself" project.

If we have caused you any uneasiness, it has been intentional. A will is not something to be put off until tomorrow. You can call 314-425-4624 or FTS 279-4624 today and make an appointment for yours. We will be looking forward to meeting with you.

Selective Reenlistment Bonus Ends

Legislative authority to pay the selective reenlistment bonus expired Sep. 30, 1978. No further bonuses will be paid to individuals who reenlist after Oct. 1, 1978. Personnel who reenlisted prior to Sep. 30, 1978, and have annual installments coming to them will receive their money.

Anyone thinking of reenlisting who wants to protect his bonus eligibility should extend on a month-to-month basis, according to ALDIST 187/78. ALDIST 187/78 cautions individuals nearing six years service about this strategy. Once an individual is over six years service, he may no longer be eligible for maximum SRB.

Champus News

(AFPS) October 1 marks the start of a new year for CHAMPUS outpatient deductibles.

Defense Department officials have reminded the Program's beneficiaries that a deductible satisfied during FY 1978 (Oct. 1, 1977 through Sep. 30, 1978) cannot be applied to care received after Sep. 30. A new outpatient deductible will have to be satisfied for FY 1979.

The outpatient deductible is the initial amount a beneficiary must pay each fiscal year before CHAMPUS assistance is available for outpatient expenses. For an individual, it is the first $50 of authorized outpatient charges in a fiscal year. For a family of two or more beneficiaries filing claims, the maximum deductible in a fiscal year is $100.

(AFPS) Beginning Sep. 15, 1978, Blue Cross of Southwestern Virginia will process all claims for professional and institutional care received in Indiana and Kentucky by CHAMPUS beneficiaries.

Blue Cross of Southwestern Virginia was selected on the basis of competitive bidding. The organization submitted the best overall proposal for administering payments of CHAMPUS claims for the two states, according to Defense Department officials.

Affected CHAMPUS beneficiaries should begin submitting claims to Blue Cross of Southwestern Virginia after Sep. 14, 1978, even if the care was received before that date. Their address is P.O. Box 13828, Roanoke, Va. 24034.

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St. Louis Recruiting Booth At Hispanic Heritage Week Celebration.

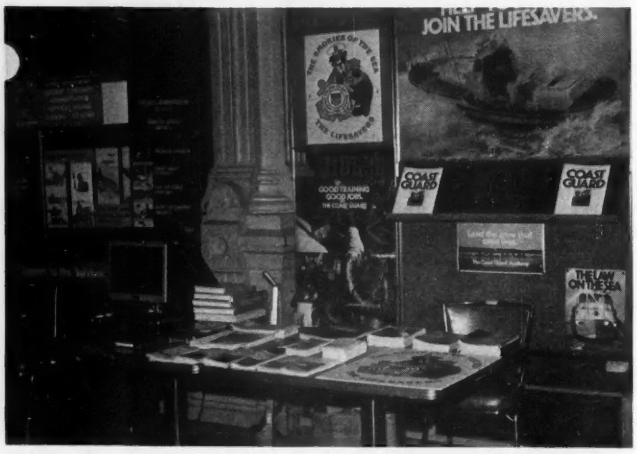

Photo by SN Dona Frank

The Coast Guard participated in Hispanic Heritage Week, (Proclaimed by President Carter for the week of September 11-17) with a booth maintained by the St. Louis Recruiting Office at the Old Post Office in downtown St. Louis, and by sending representatives to a luncheon. Mrs. Haniny Hillberg, 2nd District Hispanic Employment Program Coordinator, helped organize Coast Guard involvement in the event.

Promotions

August Promotions:

BMC C.D. Harmon Group Ohio River
AT1 C.L. Lee O'CCGDTWO
DC3 D.R. Wosick Omega Station
MK2 A.D. Gillie MSO Nashville

September Promotions:

EMCS J.R. Martin Group Lower Mississippi
BMCS R.D. Stephens Group Missouri River
BM1 M.W. Gibbs MSO St. Louis
SS1 L.L. Broadston CGC LANTANA
YN1 J.E. Dinda MSO St. Paul
DC1 D.J. Rowan ANFAC Swickley
DC1 J.A. Denconcour Group Lower Mississippi
MK1 R.D. Zarzycki ANFAC Greenville
MK1 T.J. Roberts MSO Cincinnati
MK1 T.L. Lambert MSO Louisville
MK1 J.M. Defrancisco MSO St. Paul
DC2 C.W. Compton ANFAC Natchez
DC2 G.E. Hall CGC Gasconade
MK2 D.W. Barnett MSO Cincinnati
MK2 R.W. Silva ANFAC Dubuque
MK2 R.W. Hill BOSTEAM-2 St. Louis
EMC C.R. Byrne CC CCGDTWO

October Promotions

SKCS J.J. Weber CCGD TWO (di)
YNC R.J. Eldred RUITDET Wichita
DCC N.A. Niedringhaus Assist team CCGDTWO
YN1 L.R. Johnson RUITOFF St. Louis

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